

The Refuge

Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge, located in east central Louisiana, 12 miles east of Jena, was established on October 28, 1958 and now totals 25,242 acres.

The 6,671 acre Headquarters Unit borders nine miles of the northeast shore of Catahoula Lake. The 18,571 acre Bushley Bayou Unit, located eight miles west of Jonesville, was established May 16, 2001. The acquisition was made possible through a partnership agreement between The Conservation Fund, American Electric Power, and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Catahoula NWR is now part of the Central Louisiana Refuges Complex administered out of the Grand Cote NWR Headquarters Office located at:
401 Island Road, Marksville, LA 71351
318/253 4238

General Regulations

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to provide recreational opportunities through the wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting and sport fishing are permitted in accordance with the Federal regulations governing public use on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting and fishing will be in accordance with applicable State regulations subject to conditions contained within this brochure.

Individuals utilizing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles, and their contents by refuge officers.

The refuge is open to public access for hunting and fishing from 4 am to two hours after sunset, with the exception of French Fork road which is open for access to Catahoula Lake 24-hours/day.

Youths are generally defined as those individuals 17 years of age or younger. Youths under the age of 16 may hunt without hunter education certification if they are accompanied by and under direct supervision of a person born before September 1, 1969 that has a valid hunting license; or they are accompanied by and under the direct supervision of a person who is 18 years of age or older and has proof of successful completion of a hunter education course approved by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Direct supervision means that the person being supervised is within a normal audible voice contact and in direct line of sight of the supervising person at all times while hunting. The supervising adult is responsible for ensuring that youth hunters do not engage in conduct that would

constitute a violation of refuge regulations. One adult may supervise two youth during small game and waterfowl hunts but only one during big game hunts.

Permits

An annual Special Recreational Activity Permit is required for all hunters and fisherman 16 years old and older, and for all terrain vehicle (ATV) use on the refuge. The Central LA NWR (20.00) Special Recreational Activity Permit applies to all refuges within the complex (Lake Ophelia, Grand Cote, and Catahoula).

Permits are available at the Refuge Headquarters located at Grand Cote National Wildlife Refuge, seven miles west of Marksville, LA on Highway 1194. Permits may also be purchased at the Catahoula NWR Office, located on US Highway 84, approximately 12 miles east of Jena, LA, and one mile west of the junction of highways US 84 and LA 28. On weekdays and weekends, permits may be purchased at Kate and Ivy's Grocery store, located at 5090 Hwy 452 Marksville, LA 71351 or at T-Town located at 5925 Hwy 84, Jonesville, LA 71343. Permits may also be purchased on-line at <https://CentralLA.RecAccess.com>. RecAccess accepts all major credit cards. All hunters are encouraged to purchase permits on-line.

The permit must be signed and in your possession whenever hunting, fishing or using a ATV on the refuge, and acknowledges your understanding of refuge regulations.

Disabled

Mobility impaired sportsmen who need assistance should contact the Refuge Manager. The fishing pier located on Cowpen Bayou is wheelchair accessible.

Commercial Activities

Commercial hunting, fishing and crawfishing activities are prohibited. Specifically, we prohibit any person or group acting as a hunting guide, outfitter, or in any other capacity that any other individual pays or promises to pay directly or indirectly for services rendered to any other person(s) hunting on the refuge, regardless of whether such payment is for guiding, outfitting, lodging or club membership. Anyone planning to pursue a commercial activity on refuge land, lake, bayous or waters is advised to contact the refuge manager for information on permitted commercial activities and special use permits.

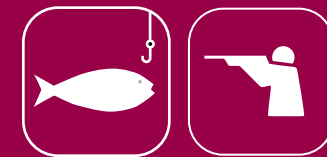
Firearms/Bows

Archery equipment and primitive firearms as defined by the State of Louisiana are permitted during the applicable Refuge Hunt.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Catahoula

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2017-2018



Catahoula
National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 120
Rhinehart, Louisiana 71363
318/992 5261
<http://catahoula.fws.gov>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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June 2017



Ammunition

Only shotgun shells with approved non-toxic shot, .177 and .22 caliber rimfire ammunition may be used or possessed on the refuge while hunting small game. The possession of slugs or rifle ammunition larger than .22 caliber rimfire is permitted only during refuge deer firearm hunts. **The possession of buckshot is prohibited.**

Methods of Taking Game

The use of climbing spikes; attaching stands to trees with nails, screws, or bolts; hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven is prohibited. Construction of or hunting from a permanent blind or stand is prohibited.

Only portable deer stands may be used. Deer stands may be erected one day before the archery season and must be removed from the refuge within one day after the season closes. **Hunters may place only one deer stand on the refuge.** Deer stands must have the owners name, address and phone number clearly printed on the stand. Stands must be placed in a non-hunting position when not in use.

Safety

Hunter orange or blaze pink is required during the refuge primitive firearms hunts and deer gun hunts. Four hundred (400) inches of Hunter Orange on the outermost layer of clothing on chest and back and a cap of unbroken Hunter Orange must be displayed during these hunts, at all times whether on the ground, towers, or tree stands. Hunters participating in dog season for rabbit are required to wear a minimum of a “Hunter Orange” cap. All persons afield during hunting seasons are encouraged to display “Hunter Orange.” Deer hunters hunting from concealed ground blinds must display a minimum of 400 square inches of “Hunter Orange” above or around their blinds which is visible from 360° and must be on blind at all times.

Restricted Area

Hunting is restricted in certain areas as shown on the hunting maps. Hunting or discharging of firearms within 150 feet from the centerline of maintained road, ATV trails, fire lanes, utility rights-of-way, or the **Refuge Boundary** is prohibited. A maintained trail is defined as any lane, trail, or area manipulated by mowing, discing, grading, or chemical treatment to retard or control vegetation.

Automobiles

All automobiles are restricted to roads that are delineated on refuge map. The vehicle speed limit shall not exceed 25 mph except as otherwise legally posted.

All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

Use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) is restricted to designated trails. ATVs are allowed only for hunting, fishing, and other

wildlife related activities. ATVs will not exceed 25 mph when driven on the Refuge.

ATVs used on Refuges will not exceed the following: weight – 750 lbs., length – 85”, and width – 48”. ATV tires are restricted to those no larger than 25 x 12 with a maximum lug height of 1” and a maximum allowable tire pressure of 7 p.s.i. as indicated on the tire by the manufacturer. ATV trails are open from September 1 through the last day of Refuge rabbit season. Some ATV trails are open year round for fishing access and are indicated on the map.

Headquarters Unit Only

Archery season is closed during refuge deer gun hunt south of French Fork of Little River. Hunting is closed during the high water conditions when Catahoula Lake elevation is at 42.0 feet or above. The lake level can be monitored at the following website: <http://www.rivergages.com>– Vicksburg District of the Ouachita River Basin.

Feral hogs and raccoons may be taken during all hunts.

Fishing

Only pole/line or rod/reel fishing for finfish is permitted. No snagging. Crawfishing and jug fishing on Headquarters Unit prohibited. Cowpen Bayou and the Highway 28 borrow pits are open to fishing year-round. Muddy Bayou, Duck Lake and its’ tail waters, Willow Lake, Highway 84 and all other refuge waters are open to fishing March 1-October 31. Only non-motorized boats and boats with 10 horsepower or less are permitted on the Headquarters Unit waters. Small boats that are hand carried to the water may be launched at non-boat ramp sites. Boats are allowed on refuge waters on dates as detailed above.

Bushley Bayou Unit Only

All motorized vehicles are restricted to designated refuge roads only. See Bushley Bayou Unit map. Driving off any designated ATV trail or road is prohibited.

Hunting is closed during high water conditions when Catahoula Lake elevation is at 44.0 feet or above, except waterfowl. The lake level can be monitored at the following website: <http://www.rivergages.com>– Vicksburg District of the Ouachita River Basin.

Hunting is permissible with pointer/retriever dogs during migratory bird seasons and with rabbit and squirrel dogs during the rabbit and squirrel season following the last primitive firearms deer hunt until the end of the State rabbit season. No more than two dogs per hunting party for squirrel hunting. All dogs must be collared with owner’s name and phone number. Use of dogs to trail wounded deer or hogs is prohibited.

Fishing

Recreational fishing and crawfishing is allowed year round. For crawfishing, only pyramid nets made with cotton or nylon webbing will be permitted. The harvest limit is 100 pounds per permit per day. All nets must be attended at all times and may not be left on the refuge overnight. No commercial crawfishing is permitted on the refuge. Artificial crawfish bait, melt, and fish may be used, with the exception of catfish heads. All used and un-used crawfish bait must be retained. All bait discarded on refuge property will be considered littering. Permittee’s may not give or sell fish to: commercial fishermen or persons who sell fish or employees or family members of commercial fishermen. Only 10 horsepower motors or less are allowed on interior lakes within the Bushley Bayou Unit.

Trotline must be tended at least once every 24 hours and reset when exposed by receding water levels and must be attached with a length of cotton line that extends into the water. A maximum limit of 100 hooks per trotline and no more than 4 trotlines per boat is allowed. Both ends of the trotline must be labeled with name, address and phone number. Trotlines must be removed when not in use. Yo-yo’s and jugs must be attended (within sight) and used only during daylight hours. A maximum limit of 25 jugs and 25 yo-yo’s per boat is allowed. Jugs and yo-yo’s must be attached with cotton line. Nylon line prohibited.

We prohibit bank fishing on Bushley creek and all fishing in Black Lake, Dempsey Lake, Long Lake, Rhinehart Lake, and Round Lake, during the deer-gun and primitive-firearms hunts. We prohibit fishing in Black Lake, Dempsey Lake, Long Lake, Rhinehart Lake, and Round Lake, during waterfowl hunts.

Prohibited Activities

- Possession or distribution of bait while in the field and hunting with the aid of bait, including any grain, salt, minerals, or any non-naturally occurring food attractant
- Hunting or the discharge of firearms within 150 feet from the centerline of roads, maintained trails, ATV trails, fire lanes, utility rights-of-way, or the **Refuge Boundary**
- Parking or hunting within 150 feet of any oil well site, production facility or equipment
- Use or possession of any type of material used as flagging or trail markers, except bright eyes or reflective tape
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting
- Littering
- Camping/overnight parking

- Harvest or otherwise taking of frogs, turtles, snakes, shells, or mollusks
- Taking of wildlife, or parts of, or plants (including cutting trees or brush) other than specified in this brochure
- Target practice
- Trapping
- Use of horses or mules
- Fires
- Spot-lighting – artificial light may not be used to locate wildlife.
- Man-drives for deer or feral hogs
- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts
- Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles or ATV
- Possession of saws, saw blades, or machetes
- Possession of cleaned or processed fish on the refuge
- Use of remote cameras
- Use of deer or turkey gobbler decoys
- The use of an ATV on graveled road designated for motor vehicles unless otherwise posted
- Accessing adjoining non-refuge property from any part of the refuge or from refuge parking areas

Specific Hunting Regulations

All hunters must check-in and check-out after each hunt using a self-clearing permit available from a check station. Reporting your hunting activity and any wildlife harvest information after every hunt will help us better manage the Refuge.

Hunters may enter the refuge no earlier than 4 am and must exit no later than two hours after legal sunset for that day. Waterfowl hunting must cease by 12 noon and all decoys and blinds removed from the hunting area by 1 pm.

Waterfowl and small game hunting is prohibited during primitive firearms and gun deer hunts.

State bag limits and regulations apply unless otherwise specified. The only seasons open are those listed in this brochure.

Hunting is permitted only in designated areas during dates shown on map.

Beaver, feral hogs, nutria and coyote may be taken **incidental to any refuge hunt** with weapons legal for that hunt until the daily bag limit of game is taken.